

REMARKS

The last Office Action of May 26, 2006 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration of the instant application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 11-21 and 31-39 are pending in the application. Claim 11 has been amended. No claims have been canceled or added. No amendment to the specification has been made. No fee is due.

Claims 11-21 and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,257,788 to Rockstedt.

Claims 31-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rockstedt.

In order to clearly distinguish the present invention from Rockstedt, applicant has amended claim 11 by setting forth the particular configuration of the comb element in the form of a plurality of axially spaced-apart rows of circumferentially spaced-apart surface structure elements. Support therefore can be found in Figs. 2, 4 and 5 of the disclosure.

The Rockstedt reference discloses a multi-screw construction having a screw portion in the form of a polygon whose surfaces (27) are approximately flat and whose edges (25) extend in axial direction (see, e.g., col. 3, lines 11, 12). Thus, Rockstedt fails to disclose the provision of **axially spaced-apart rows** of circumferentially spaced-apart surface structure elements, as set forth in claim 11.

For the reasons set forth above, it is applicant's contention that Rockstedt neither teaches nor suggests the features of the present invention, as recited in claim 11.

As for the rejection of the retained dependent claims, these claims depend on claim 11, share its presumably allowable features, and therefore it is respectfully submitted that these claims should also be allowed.

It should, however, be noted that claims are further considered allowable on their own merits as they recite other features of the invention neither taught nor

suggested by the applied prior art. Claims 32 and 33, for example, recite that the surface area of the surface structure elements is $\leq 2 \text{ mm}^2$ and $\leq 1.8 \text{ mm}^2$ at their tip. This minimal area at the pointed end of the surface structure elements enables a particularly effective penetration of the tips of the surface structure elements in the fiber composites that are supplied to the extruder for processing (see paragraph [0012] of the instant specification).

In view of the above presented remarks and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that all claims on file should be considered patentably differentiated over the art and should be allowed.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully requested that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. If the Examiner feels that it might be helpful in advancing this case by calling the undersigned, applicant would greatly appreciate such a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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